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Colorado

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Colorado. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has federal census and military records, and histories of Colorado towns and counties, but few other records of Colorado.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog™ found at the library and at each Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
COLORADO - LAND AND PROPERTY
COLORADO, DENVER - HISTORY
COLORADO, DENVER, DENVER - CEMETERIES

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
COLORADO - LAND AND PROPERTY
COLORADO, DENVER - HISTORY
COLORADO, DENVER, DENVER - CEMETERIES

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- Colorado Division of State Archives and Public Records
1313 Sherman Street
Floor 1B, Room 20
Denver, CO 80203
Telephone: 303-866-2358 or 303-866-2390
Fax: 303-866-2257
- National Archives and Records Administration—
Rocky Mountain Region (Denver)
Denver Federal Center Building 48
P.O. Box 25307
Denver, CO 80225-0307
Telephone: 303-236-0817
Fax: 303-236-9354
- Colorado Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 9218
Denver, CO 80209-0218
Telephone: 303-571-1535
- Colorado Historical Society
Colorado Heritage Center
1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203
Telephone: 303-866-3392
Fax: 303-866-4464
- Denver Public Library
Western History and Genealogy Department
10 West 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO 80203-2165
Telephone: 303-640-6200

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Colorado counties, use the 16 inventories of county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. Copies of these inventories are at the Family History Library, and most are on microfilm.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail

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- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Colorado in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>
 A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/>
 A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection* contains some Colorado Bible records. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. It is partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*, vol. 2 (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v. 2; fiche 6089184).

BIOGRAPHY

The best collection of published biographies in Colorado is at the Colorado Historical Society. They also have a biographical vertical file and the *Bromwell Index* (FHL films 1688547-8), which is a five-volume alphabetical list of prominent people in Colorado up to 1933.

Two representative biographical encyclopedias are:

Stone, Wilbur Fiske. *History of Colorado*. 4 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918-19. (FHL book 978.8 H2sw; film 1320948 items 1-3.) Volumes 2-4 contain biographies.

Portrait and Biographical Record of the State of Colorado. . . . 2 vols. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1899. (FHL book 978.8 D3p; film 1000142.)

CEMETERIES

The *Daughters of the American Revolution Collection* contains tombstone inscriptions from Colorado cemeteries. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

The names, locations, and addresses of cemeteries in the state and references to published and nonpublished transcripts are found in Kay R. Merrill, *Colorado Cemetery Directory* (Denver: Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, 1985; FHL book 978.8 V34cc; film 1597842 item 4).

Transcripts from some small cemeteries in 33 counties have been published in Lela O. McQueary, *Colorado Cemetery Inscriptions* (Englewood, Colo.: Kay R. Merrill, 1985; FHL book 978.8 V3m; fiche 6087257).

CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information regarding these records.

The Family History Library has the federal censuses for the state of Colorado for 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 and a special federal census taken in 1885. The 1890 census was destroyed.

Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available on microfilm for part of the 1880 census and all of the 1900 and 1920 censuses. The Family History Library also has a published index for the 1880 census and a Denver street index (FHL fiche 6331481) for use with the 1910 census.

Mortality schedules (lists of deaths in the year before a census) exist for the 1860 (Kansas Territory), 1870, 1880, and 1885 censuses. The schedules for the years 1860, 1870, and 1880 are indexed in book format. The schedules and indexes are at the Family History Library.

Territorial

An 1860 federal territorial census was taken in the four territories from which Colorado was created. For the northeastern part of the state, see the Nebraska 1860 census schedules designated "unorganized territory." The central eastern section was enumerated with Arapahoe County, Kansas Territory. The southeast portion was enumerated in parts of Taos and Mora counties of New Mexico Territory. Since the half of the state included in the Utah Territory was not settled, no census was taken in that area.

The Colorado Historical Society has a card index to the 1860 census. Separate indexes for the Nebraska and New Mexico portions are included in the 1860 indexes for those territories. An index to Arapahoe County, Kansas (where most of Colorado's 1860 population lived) is found in search 7A on the AIS census index on microfiche.

An 1870 Colorado Territory census and index are also at the Family History Library. Both the 1860 and 1870 censuses include mortality schedules (see above).

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Colorado were the Catholic, Methodist-Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Baptist.

An inventory that can help you find church records is *Guide to Vital Statistics Records in Colorado*, vol. 2. *Church Archives* (Denver: Colorado Historical Records Survey W.P.A., 1942; FHL book 978.8 A5h; film 897482 item 9). This book lists churches that existed about 1940.

The Family History Library has records of some Catholic and Presbyterian congregations and pre-1949 LDS ward records, but few other church records. The library also has histories of the Episcopal, Latter-day Saint, and Presbyterian groups in the state.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

Baptist

American Baptist Historical Society
1106 South Goodman Street
Rochester, NY 14620
Telephone: 716-473-1740

Episcopal

Diocese of Colorado
1300 Washington
Denver, CO 80203-2008
Telephone: 303-837-1173

Methodist

Rocky Mountain Conference Historical Society
Ira J. Taylor Library
Iliff School of Theology
2201 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80210
Telephone: 303-744-1287
Fax: 303-777-3387 or 303-777-0164

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509

Roman Catholic

Archives of the Archdiocese of Denver
200 Josephine Street
Denver, CO 80206
Telephone: 303-388-4411 ext. 224
Fax: 303-331-8071

Chancery Office
1001 No. Grand Ave.
Pueblo, CO 81003
Telephone: 719-544-9861
Fax: 719-544-5202

For a history of the Catholic church in Colorado, see Rev. Jean Baptiste Salpointe, *Soldiers of the Cross . . .*, 1898, Reprint (Albuquerque: Calvin Horn Publishers, 1967; FHL book 973 K2sj).

COURT RECORDS

Major Colorado courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

Supreme court has statewide jurisdiction over appellate matters.

Court of appeals serves as a statewide appellate court for district courts and the Denver superior, probate, and juvenile courts.

District courts have districtwide jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters.

County courts have countywide jurisdiction concurrent with district courts over misdemeanors, preliminary hearings, the issuance of some warrants, some bail matters, minor civil matters, and certain

appellate functions. The county courts have exclusive jurisdiction over probates.

Denver superior court has jurisdiction over appeals from the Denver County Court and concurrent jurisdiction with district courts over minor civil matters for the city and county of Denver.

The Family History Library has only a few Colorado court records (Arapahoe County). Colorado Court records are at the Colorado Division of State Archives and Public Records or at the various county courthouses.

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Colorado. The Family History Library, for example, has Denver directories for:

- 1859 FHL fiche 6043861
- 1860-1935 FHL films 1376794—
- 1913, 1941, etc. . . . FHL book 978.883/D1 E4p

The Colorado Historical Society has similar holdings, as well as directories for smaller cities.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Since the 1840s, when the first Mexican land grants were made in southeastern Colorado, there has been a Hispanic population in the state. Settlers from the older Spanish colonies of New Mexico were in the San Luis Valley as early as 1851.

Most pre-statehood settlers of Colorado began arriving at the time of the gold rush of 1858. They came from the northeastern and midwestern states, especially New York, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Some came from the New Mexico Territory, and a few settlers came from the southern states, the Pacific Coast, and from other countries including England, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Scotland, and Wales. Latter-day Saint settlements were made in the San Luis Valley in the 1870s and 1880s.

By 1910 residents not born in Colorado came primarily from Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, and Nebraska. About 16 percent of the 1910 population was from overseas, chiefly from Germany, Italy, England, Russia, Sweden, and Austria. Many of those from Russia were actually of German origin. Foreign immigration declined after 1910 except for a major immigration from Mexico in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Plains Indians of Colorado, including the Arapaho, the Cheyenne, the Kiowa, and the

Comanche, had largely been removed to Indian Territory in Oklahoma by 1870. The Ute Indians living in western Colorado did not give up their lands to white settlement until after 1880, when most of them were moved to reservations in Utah.

There is no predominant port of immigration for Colorado's foreign population, although many came through New York and other east coast ports. More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

A helpful published source on immigration and ethnic groups in Colorado is Colin B. Goodykoontz, "The People of Colorado," in:

Hafen, LeRoy R. ed. *Colorado and Its People: A Narrative and Topical History of the Centennial State*. Vol. 2, pp. 77-120. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1948. (FHL book 978.8 H2h; film 1000143.)

Records of a few ethnic groups, such as Blacks, Germans, and Jews, are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under COLORADO - MINORITIES. Some records of American Indians are listed under the same heading and under COLORADO - NATIVE RACES. Other American Indian records are listed in the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the tribe.

GAZETTEERS

The following guides will help you locate place names in Colorado:

Gannett, Henry. *A Gazetteer of Colorado*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1906. (FHL book 978.8 E5g; film 962327 item 2.)

Dallas, Sandra. *Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985. (FHL book 978.8 H2d; film 1698299 item 7.)

Eichler, George R. *Colorado Place Names: Communities, Counties, Peaks, Passes. . .*. Boulder, Colo.: Johnson Pub., 1980. (FHL book 978.8 E2e.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. Two manuscript collections of compiled genealogies are:

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection. This collection consists of transcripts of

Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, death, obituary, and will records. It was microfilmed in 1970 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is on 10 films at the Family History Library (beginning on FHL film 849910). The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes.

The Spanish-American Mission Collection. This is a collection of family group sheets giving the ancestry of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the southwest. It is on microfilm at the Family History Library filmed in 1973 and 1980 (FHL films 940001-6).

Publications with genealogical information about early settlers include:

Territorial Daughters of Colorado. *Pioneers of the Territory of Southern Colorado*. 4 vols. Monte Vista, Colo.: C.B.I. Offset Printers, 1980. (FHL book 978.8 D2p.)

Colorado Families: A Territorial Heritage. Denver: Colorado Genealogical Society, 1981. (FHL book 978.8 D3c.)

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Colorado affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1803 The United States acquired the sections of Colorado north and east of the Arkansas River as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Beginning in 1806 government expeditions were sent to map the area, and fur trappers and traders followed in the 1820s. Western settlers in the 1840s and 1850s bypassed Colorado on their way to the Pacific Coast.

1848 The United States acquired the rest of present-day Colorado from Mexico.

1851 Hispanic families from New Mexico founded San Luis, the oldest continually occupied town in Colorado.

1854 The Colorado area was divided politically among the territories of Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico.

1858 Denver and other mining towns were organized by Colorado's early gold seekers. In 1858 the miners also organized Arapahoe County of Kansas Territory.

1859 Colorado pioneers created what they called Jefferson Territory without the sanction of Congress. It was to have included all of present-day Colorado and some areas of Utah and Wyoming.

1861 Congress organized the Colorado Territory. The first seventeen counties were organized the same year.

1870 Railroad links between Denver and Cheyenne and between Denver and Kansas City connected Colorado with the east and west coasts.

1876 Colorado became a state.

1881 Western Colorado was officially opened to white settlement after most of the Ute Indians had been moved to reservations in Utah.

1890 Colorado's population exceeded 400,000 when the last major gold strike was made at Cripple Creek.

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Colorado is LeRoy R. Hafen, ed., *Colorado and Its People: A Narrative and Topical History of the Centennial State*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1948; FHL book 978.8 H2h; film 1000143). Volumes 3-4 contain personal and family histories.

A bibliography of local histories is found in Bohdan S. Wynar and Roberta J. Depp, eds., *Colorado Bibliography* (Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1980; FHL book 978.8 A3c, pages 53-92).

LAND AND PROPERTY

Spanish and Mexican Grants

The first land grants in Colorado were given by Spain and Mexico. When the United States acquired the area in 1848, it agreed to recognize these claims. The claims were processed by the U.S. Surveyor General from 1855 to 1890. Some claims processed in the New Mexico office before 1862 relate to land that is now in Colorado.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the following records from the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, Federal Building, Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115: Telephone: 505-438-7450

- *Miscellaneous Archives . . . , 1695 to 1842*, indexed and written in Spanish. (FHL films 1016947-48.)
- *Records of Land Titles, 1847 to 1852*. (FHL film 1016950; use Donaciano Vigil's Index, 1681 to 1846, on FHL film 1016949.)
- *Record of Private Land Claims . . . , 1855 to 1890*, indexed and written in English and Spanish. (FHL films 1016950 items 2-4 and 1016951-74.)

The following publications may help you locate early records:

Beers, Henry Putney. *Spanish and Mexican Records of the American Southwest: A Bibliographic Guide to Archive and Manuscript Sources*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1979. (FHL book 973 A3bh.)

Van Ness, John R. and Christine Van Ness. *Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in New Mexico and Colorado*. Manhattan, Kans.: AG Press, 1981. (FHL book 978 R2s.)

Federal and State Records

When the United States acquired Colorado, most of the land was unclaimed and became part of the public domain. The federal government transferred land to private ownership through land offices in a process called land entry. The first general land office in Colorado was established in 1863 near Denver. Most of the land office records are at the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver). Land entry cases are at the National Archives. Patents and copies of tract books and township plats are at:

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield St.
Lakewood, CO 80215
Telephone: 303-239-3600
Fax: 303-239-3933

County Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent transactions have been recorded in county offices. The Family History Library has not microfilmed deeds or other property records that are available in each county. You may obtain copies by writing to the county clerk at the county courthouse.

MAPS

The Family History Library has a small collection of maps for Colorado and early western territories, including a set of topographical maps for the state. The library also has city ward maps of Denver for the year 1874 (FHL film 1377700; fiche 6016642). A series of maps showing changes of county boundaries between 1861 and 1913 is in *Colorado Maps* (n.p.; FHL book 978.8 E7cm).

The largest collection of maps in Colorado is in the map library of the University of Colorado at Boulder. A specialized map collection for Colorado and the southern Rocky Mountain area is in Fountain Valley School's Science Department at Colorado Springs. The Denver Public Library and the Colorado Historical Society also collect maps and atlases. The Colorado Division of State Archives and

Public Records has the incorporation filings and original plats for most towns.

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information on federal records. For Colorado the following sources are also very helpful:

Civil War (1861-1865)

The Family History Library and the National Archives have an *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers* (FHL films 821998-822000) and an index to pension applications. The actual service and pension records have not been microfilmed and are only at the National Archives.

A roster of Colorado soldiers is in William Clarke Whitford, *Colorado Volunteers in the Civil War: The New Mexico Campaign in 1862*, (Denver: S.p., State Historical and Natural History Society, 1906; FHL film 1000145 item 3).

Indian Wars (1798-1914)

The names of soldiers who served at military posts on the frontier are in *Registers of Enlistments in the United States Army* at the National Archives. The Family History Library has copies of the registers from 1798 to 1914 (beginning on FHL film 350307). The registers give the soldier's name, rank, company, regiment, company and commanders, physical description, age, occupation, and birthplace. They are arranged by year and by the first letter of the surname.

World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Colorado, see:

United States. Selective Service System.
Colorado, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1544462.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities.

Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

The Family History Library and the National Archives have two indexes of pension records: Old War Pension Index (1815-1926) and Indian Wars (1892-1926). These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - MILITARY RECORDS.

Additional military records are at the Colorado Division of State Archives and Public Records, including militia muster roll books through World War I and grave registrations of veterans.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records were filed in local or federal courts until 1906 when the U.S. district courts were given jurisdiction. Some territorial and early statehood records are at the Colorado Division of Archives and Public Records. The National Archives and Records Administration—Rocky Mountain Region has declarations and petitions for the years 1877 to 1952 for the U.S. District Courts of Denver, Pueblo, Del Norte, and Montrose. The U.S. District Court in Denver has an index to naturalizations granted in these courts since 1876.

The Family History Library has microfilms of U.S. District Courts Naturalization Records for Denver (1877-1952) and Pueblo for the years (1906-1949).

The Colorado Genealogical Society has indexed abstracts of some naturalization records and published these in *The Colorado Genealogist* (see the "Periodicals" section of this outline).

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or order films from the Family History Library.

NEWSPAPERS

The Western History Department of the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Historical Society have the most complete collections of Colorado newspapers. Both repositories have indexes to newspaper obituaries. The availability of newspapers is also described in Donald E. Oehlerts, *Guide to Colorado Newspapers, 1859-1963* (Denver: Bibliographical Center for Research, 1964; FHL book 978.8 B3O; film 1000145 item 4).

PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for Colorado research are:

Boulder Genealogical Society Quarterly. 1969-.

Published by the Boulder Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 3246, Boulder, CO 80307-3246. (FHL book 978.863/B1 B2b; fiche 6048579-97, vols. 2-20.)

The Colorado Genealogist. 1939-. Published by the Colorado Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 9218, Denver, CO 80209-0218. (FHL book 978.8 B2cg; on FHL film 1421853 items 5-14, vols. 1-10.) There is a subject index for 1939 to 1981.

Pinon Whispers. 1980-. Published by the Southeastern Colorado Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 4207, Pueblo, CO 81003-0207. (FHL book 978.8 D25p.)

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records have been kept by the county courts except in Denver, where a separate probate court has been established. Colorado probate records include bonds, affidavits, letters, claims, appraisals, fee accounts, minutes, judgments, dockets, calendars, case files, and wills. The Family History Library does not have copies of probate records from Colorado. You may obtain copies of documents from the clerk's office in each county courthouse.

A source of information from early Denver probate records is Ella Ruland MacDougall, *Abstracts of Early Probate Records* (S.p.; FHL book 978.8 A1 No. 13; film 928039 item 10.)

VITAL RECORDS

Births and Deaths

A law was passed in 1876 requiring counties and towns to record births and deaths. In those counties where the clerks complied, the records are available at the local courthouse. Most early files are incomplete.

Statewide registration began in 1907 and was generally complied with by 1920. Some of the earlier county records and delayed registrations of births since 1941 are at the Colorado Department of Health. To obtain copies of these records, write to:

Vital Records Section
Colorado Department of Health
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80222-1530
Telephone: 303-756-4464

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993, FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers.

You can also write to the Colorado Department of Health for current information. State your relationship to the individual you want information about and your reason. Certificates are released only to members of the immediate family.

The Family History Library does not have copies of Colorado's civil vital records.

Marriages

Each county has kept marriage records since the date it was organized. A few records date from 1860. You can write to the appropriate county clerk for information.

The Colorado Department of Health has a statewide index to marriages from 1900 to 1939 and from 1975 to the present. (On 106 FHL films beginning with 1690047, years 1900-1939, 1975-1992). They will check the index and then forward the inquiry to the correct county office.

The Colorado Division of State Archives and Public Records also has copies of marriage records for 20 counties, including Denver from 1861 to 1952.

Some county marriage records have been extracted and published. For example, many early marriage records have been published in *The Colorado Genealogist* (see the "Periodicals" section of this outline). The earliest Denver and Arapahoe County marriage records have recently been published in *Marriages of Arapahoe County, Colorado, 1859-1901: Including Territory That Became Adams, Denver, and Other Counties* (Denver: Colorado Genealogical Society, 1986; FHL book 978.882, V2m, fiche 6087871).

Divorces

Divorce records are available from the clerk of the district court in the county where the decree was granted. The Colorado Department of Health has a

statewide index of divorce records for the years 1900 to 1939 and 1968 to the present. The index identifies the county that granted the divorce. The department of health does not provide certified copies. You can write to the county clerk for copies of the records.

Guide to Vital Records

You can learn more about the history and availability of vital records in *Guide to Vital Statistics Records in Colorado*, vol. 1 (Denver: Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 978.8 A3h; film 897482 item 10).

FOR FURTHER READING

- A guide to materials about Colorado is Florence Runyan Clint, *Colorado Area Key: A Comprehensive Study of Genealogical Record Sources of Colorado, Including Maps and Brief History* (Denver: Eden Press, 1968; not at Family History Library).
- Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

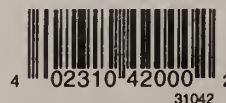
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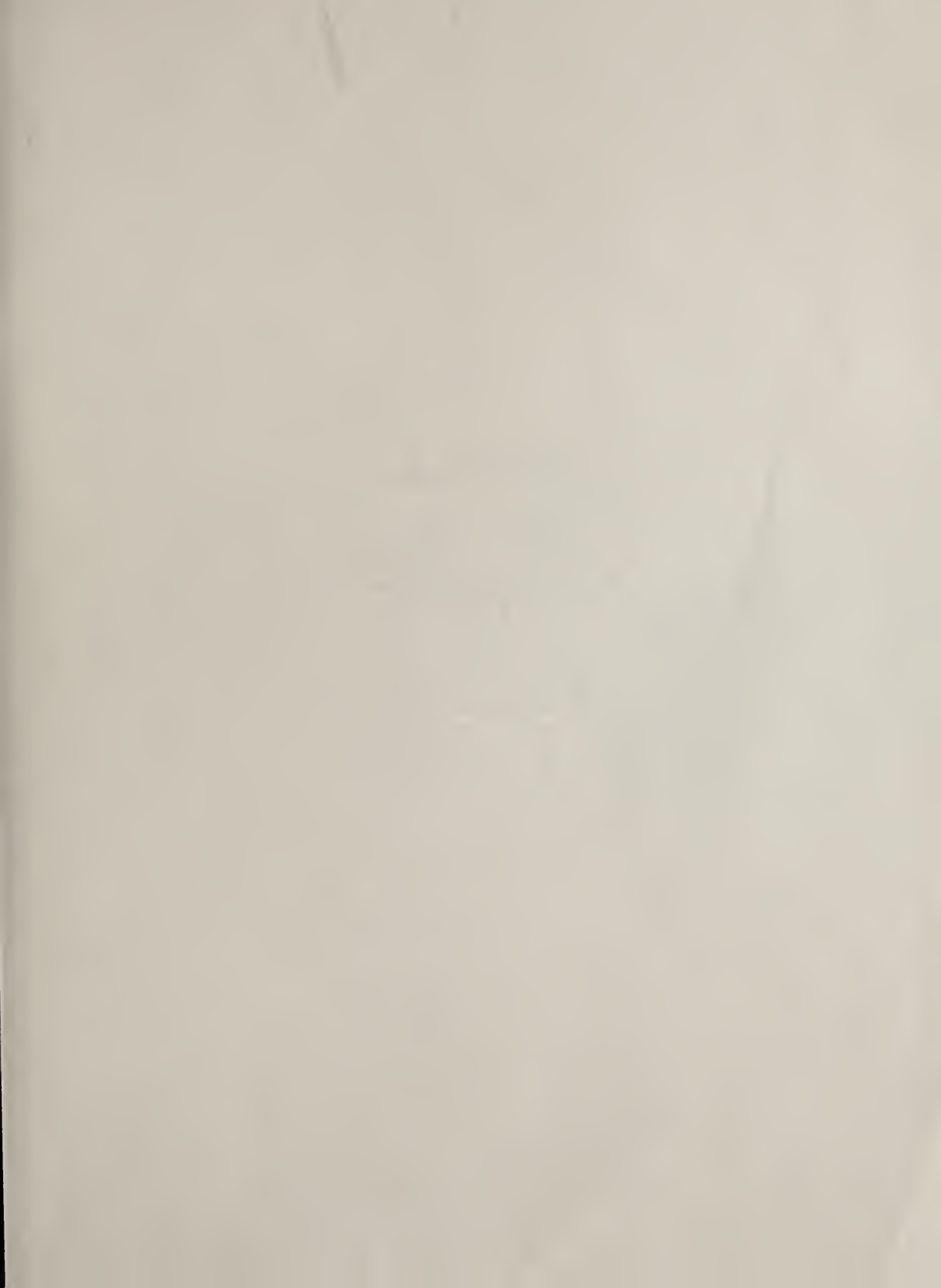
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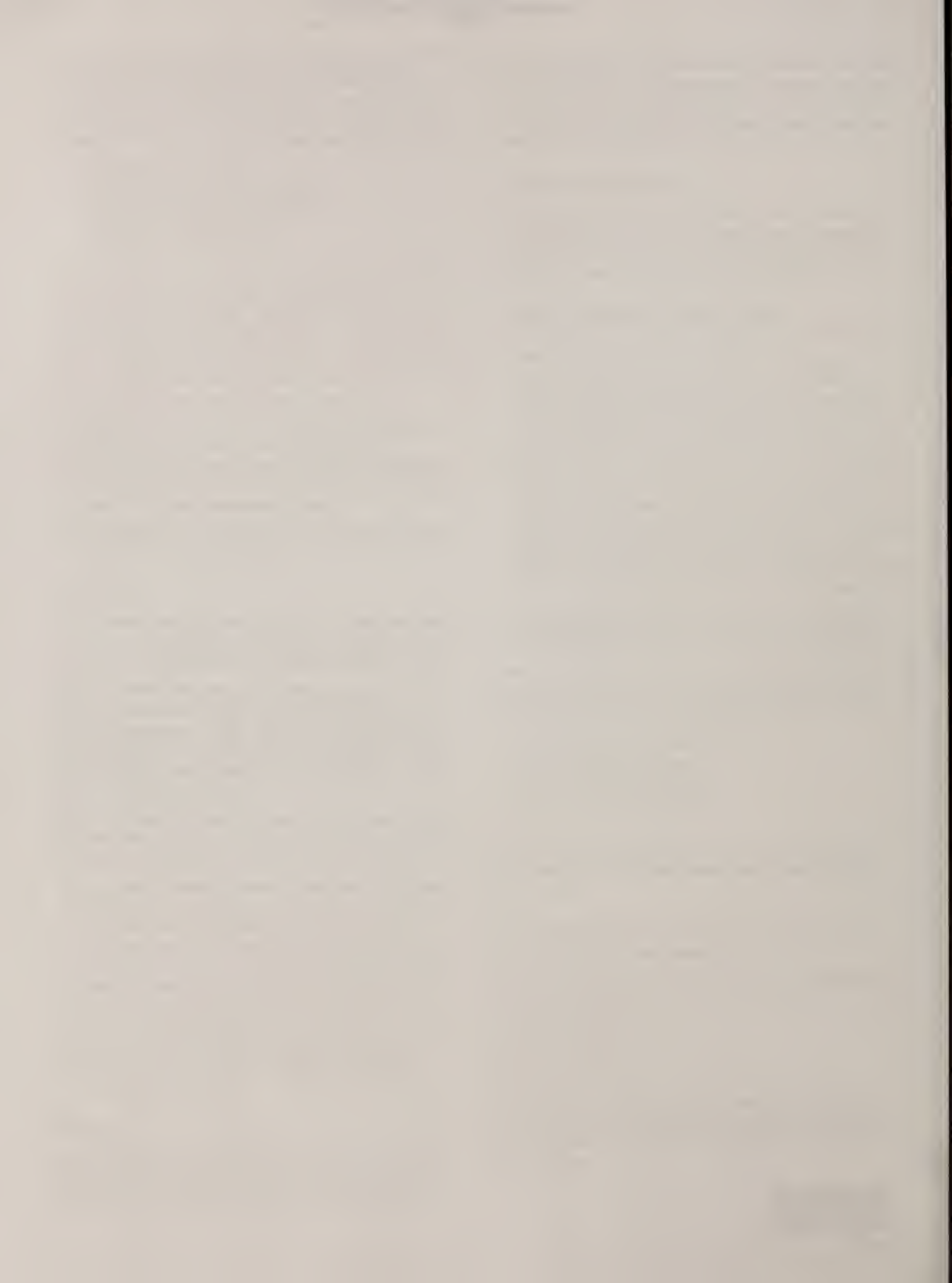
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Fax: 801-240-2494

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